GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4535
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2005
AVERAGE ANNUAL INCREASE OF FOUR PER CENT IN AGRICULTURE SECTOR
Singh Shri Prabhunath

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the review commission has set a target of an average annual increase of 4 per cent in the agriculture sector during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the average annual increase is likely to be 1 to 1.5 per cent against the target of 4 per cent during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to achieve the target cent-per-cent?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA):

(a) The growth rate of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Agriculture Sector, including the allied sectors, was set at 4 per cent during the Tenth Five Year Plan by the Planning Commission.

(b) The State-wise details of growth targets set for the Tenth Five Year Plan are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) According to the data released by Central Statistical Organization (CSO), the growth rate in agriculture, including allied sectors of forestry & logging, and fishing, was negative (-7%) in 2002-03 while it was 9.6% in 2003-04. According to the advance estimates released by the CSO, growth rate in agriculture including allied sectors, in 2004-05 was 1.1%. The average annual growth rate for the first three years of the Tenth Plan works out to 1.2%.

(d) With a view to increasing agricultural production, the Government have identified thrust areas for focused and priority attention, which include agricultural credit, irrigation, horticulture, crop diversification and marketing reforms. The Union Budget for 2005-06 has underscored the importance of efforts aimed at turning the focus of commercial banks, regional rural banks and cooperative banks towards providing credit, especially production credit, to farm households. The other areas highlighted in the Budget include micro irrigation technology comprising drip and sprinkler irrigation, National Horticulture Mission with focus on backward and forward linkages,and development/strengthening of agricultural marketing infrastructure, grading and standardization.